Jun 0 9 2009 FCC Mail Room

## BOOKET FRE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

President Obama has correctly emphasized the importance of making broadband available to vulnerable populations like the Deaf community. Is it possible that the FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress

towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,

[Insert Your Name Here]

Harry A. Vance Joina H. Vance

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(Insart Your Name Here)

Skuley D. Higgins 30511 Caroline Emily Dr Clasterfield. Mi

Sherley S. Aggins

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### June 30, 2009

Tracy L. Gleason 974 Lynwood Avenue Apt. 2 Brick, NJ 08723 Received & Inspected
JUL 0 9 2009
FCC Mail Room

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445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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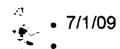
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Tracy L. Gleason

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Sincerely,

Sue Cameron



In addition to this letter I must say something that I notice a big corporation, government office or business that helps with the minority or handicapped they try to slowly stop some of the services just to save money and forget our needs.

In the deaf community we have accomplished a lot since services for the deaf were offered. We are proud to have these various services but many of the deaf people do not know how to write a letter of thanks.. This doesn't mean we do not appreciate the services that are now available to us. This is why I m sending this message to FCC and give our thanks to you but please try not to cut out some of the services that are already there.. If it s'difficult for FCC to keep their word is to promise us and leave it as that.. If you do not want to give us more services that would be different but to cut us off is an insult to us that you' re not wanting to help us keep our mode of communication open and to your promises to us.

Please take into consideration that there are millions of deaf people here and to not keep your word is a great disappointment to us. Please whatever we have keep it there. We would appreciate your correspondence open with the video relay services .....

Independence day is will be here when you receive this letter and please let us have our independence too.

Do u realize Digital TV has controlled us ... We have to have cable to be able to watch t.v. and milions of people cant afford cable so what do we do ??? We have to pay to watch tv... we had it for free ...before....??? I do not understand the reasoning for digital tv. Right now I have to pay \$115.00 just to have cable when before digital tv took over .. I was paying \$80.85 a month to watch cable tv meaning the channels I would like to watch by choice. Now we have to pay for cable to watch anything... Is this fair for millions of people who cant afford this? We need some kind of discount for the poor—and handicapped people to be able to afford and have tv programs.

We are all concerned here where is our money going ...??? Please help us!!!

Thank you for reading my letters and hope there will be some kind of resolutions for both situations.

Sue Cameron California

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

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Dear FCC:

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a change to Video Relay Service that would greatly discourage the investments that have improved VRS service, and delay even further the "functional equivalence" mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

VRS is a life altering technology for a deaf person. It allows communication in American Sign Language, the native language of a deaf person, over distance, something that no other technology allows. The passage of the provision in the Americans with Disabilities Act requiring functional equivalence was a landmark for improving the lives of deaf people. While VRS holds the promise of true functional equivalence, there is still much to be done to reach that goal, to improve VRS service and make it available to more deaf people.

The FCC provided a stable, predictable, and fair rate plan to VRS providers in 2007 that was to last for three years. At the time, the FCC stated clearly that one of the motivations behind the three year rate plan was to encourage providers to invest in better VRS service, better technology, and better interpreters. It is apparent to VRS users that VRS service is improving. Wait times for calls are shorter, videophones are substantially improved, 911 emergency service is now provided, individual telephone numbers are now available, and we understand that research is underway on technology that will improve VRS even more.

It is unthinkable to me that the FCC would intentionally hurt deaf people by undercutting VRS. Instead the FCC should be demanding more improvements in VRS. At a time when President Obama is insisting on the availability of broadband, particularly for vulnerable populations like the deaf, it is astonishing that the FCC would be heading in the opposite direction, cutting back on a broadband service like VRS that is absolutely essential to the deaf.

The FCC committed to a three year rate plan to improve VRS service, and it has worked. How can the FCC now suggest that it is going to renege on that commitment?

I urge you as strongly as I can not to shut down the investment and improvements in VRS, and instead to make better VRS available to more deaf people.

Sincerely, Joh W Snotfan
Name John W. SHORKASS Street Address: 204 NORWOOD 120
City, State, Zip Code BRTS104. LA 24201
E-mail Address:

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Name Donna Bucklandstreet Address: C/ORIC 230 Chawood Drive

City, State, Zip Code Abing don, VA 24210

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ dbucklando naxs.net

ADDRESS. 206 South 4 the Hopewell, Va 23860 Deanna Taylor 4923 Furnace In, Salem, VA 2415 Mancy Blankenship 4923 Fremaco Pn. Dalem, VA. 24153 Umald Blankenship Mary Smith inton do 929 OHTO AVE SAKM, 1A 24153 JESSE X. Smith 929 OH:0 AUE SAlem, VA 24153 11 lugaria Manor PLAPTIOI Wayar Care Bette May Charle L. Price 409 Pare say Stanton, Va 350 wayne Ave Stuarts Draft, 1A 350 Wayne Ave. Stuarts Draft, 24471 Kosen Boneve Brenda Bourne Judy Julan 314 West Ave Stanton VA 2449 436 Hammond Ln Parren Osborne Staunton, ra 24401 436 Hammond Ln Staun ton, va 24401 1124 OLD F. eld ande Christina Osborne DAVID SAAVEDRA Valorach, Va 23452 1124 Oldfield Cir. Barbara Saavedra Jirginia Beach, Va 23453 11500 Teterling Rd Chester, va 23831 21063 Hickbart Road Broad, 14 24202 854 TAH Rd. Wish VA. 24293-7100 Kimberly B. Brown Shirley & Blake Leslieum Skidmore 8654 TAFT Rd. Wise, VA. 24293-7100 Danny C. Stridmore

ADDRESS 34 Vot Ave Stainton, MA Hanlay Byers 505- Lower St. N. TAR. 2A. Mylhony Mark Brewsler Barbara KAY Brewster P.O. BO4477 Louise 2 oursend HAMPLON, TENN 37655 2008 Shindstaff Aug Elizabethton Jenn 37643 2055 Devault Bridge Rd Lot 2 Donna Ward Tammy +Paul memanus Piney Flats IN 37686 1247 cong Fork Rd Charlette faclatt Vusio, Ky 415)2 1247 long Fond Rd Lug taclet Vença Ky 415) 2 JoHN & Black Coeburn, Up 23940 460 Monument Dr. Jimmy S. Wise DWALE, KY, 4/63/ POBOX194 Glade sking VA 24340 ERNEST RAY Pro. 134 159 William Dichol Cos Midgy WV - 25825 638 maple st Cathy Michael 6-lode Spring, VA 24340 Pa. Box 159 Many Michal Cool Map NV-2002 20825 Rt. 1 Box 12-G John Burdette Fort spring, WV 24970 522 Alderson Manor Erin Fulton Alderson, WV 24910 198 Oak Growe Rd #7 Mary Low Bourser Gray Th 27615 361 Belmont Dr #9 Karen Hogston Bristol, TN 37620

ADDRESS \_\_NAME 360 Spurgeon Rd Shandle + Lyler Jurner Blountville, 7n.3. 21275 Delmer Rd Damascus VA 24236 Johny Marton MR. Charles F. Robinsonde 100 Juees St - Bristoc TV 38620 Manya Wale Ward 1572 Huy 91, 6 brabethe Nicole Castle Johnson City, TV 37604 3604 Ian Dr. Justin Shey Johnson CityTN37604 603 Possum Cr Rd Laura Clemons Gate City Va 24251 11801 Central STreeT Kimpry King COEBURU, VA 24230 611 Orchard Some Ida Potter Wise, Va 611 Orefund Some Kennish Potter Wise va 1 Livaport 3? Patry Bracken 1920 Bourter DR opt F-5 tens 332, N Johnson Dr 6045 Floyd Hwy N Sharon Fouts Ester Grifith Check, Vg 2407Z 6045 Floyd HWYN Elbert Griffich Check, /9 24072 2012 torevellare mark Keyser Bluefield, VA 24615 Towara Adams Blufield, VA 24605 Roberta Wagner GATE C: TY, UA 24251 239 Rick Skillet Rd or 1009 Saltville, Va Shirley Holmes 24370

ADDRESS POBOX 3217 ROBERT Hamilton Pikeville KX 41501 David C. Mabe 715 Pauley Flot avoid Rd pavid c make Paul McManus Tr 2055 DeMault Bridge Rd#2 Weal /eusons 2815 FismalaD OfKidool 4/246 Janu Hoyd 109 Raildr Avi Heborn, md 21830 3027 Park Bluz, Marrion, 4 24354 DelCal 4611 N. Lakedront Or Glen #11en, VA 23068 Kindely alors Bond Michael allis 3845 Colony LA Koanoka Co V124018 416 S. Marketst. Dennis Thompson Stephanie Crampbell Solem, Vac 24153 RHI BOX 156-H Wenn's Matherly tage Heville, W/G. 25840 3027 Park Blvd Stephanie Price Nacion, VA 24364 PO BCX 13052 POODGE VA 24030 Chnoly bowers Emby Bonus Gay n Bowers (1 2018 Ebure 24-37601 Jennifer Enticknap 17565 SPRUCE Rive Ret WV 25144-98 Larry J. Mathew

ADDRESS\_ NAME. 3754 STratford Park DrswA. Larry O. GUTHRIC RoanoKe, VA 24018 3754 Stratford PAHY Dr. Swapt1 april D. Guthre Koanoke, up 24018 100 South 4th ave 160 Hopewell, VA. 23860 Gary Taylor 522 Alderson mar Erin Fulton Alderson WV 24910 p. 0 2717 Chester Field, VA 23832 Steve Enticknep 1650 Silver Grave Rd Billy Webb\_\_\_\_ BluffCity TN 37618 122 Mountainside Lr. Robert Walker Lake City, TN 37769 P.O. BOX 28 Melinda R. Hurd 143 Windson Dr Sandy Puchett n-Tuzewell Ja 24630 330 Starmed Dr. Ellen Southand Danville Va- 24630 329 little Vine RD John Anders, Sr itillsville UA 24343 Maril A Keyen Builtele va 21605 54 Green wood LN Willie Eugene Nunkey BLANd Va 34315 1215 Council MIn Rd Alvin Harris Rower Ug 24646 Juvanne Tiller Bee, Va Dupler Harris HonalCer Va marisdale Va. Lucy Jackson

ADDRESS mutchell Lengonfeitter 1-0 Box 200 appen 6/ados N-03+ Va 26266 WAYNESBORD, VA 22980 Jerry Joe John Bin Elling Victor F Haywes 354 Davis Re Kosmila Ch 2420 PO BOX 346 Cana, VA 24317 Karen D. Hayhor 9.0.30x 346 Cane, Va. 24317 1049 Cafer Dr. Glen Burnie, md DAWN L. Mills 8671 Harmony Rd. Denton, Md 114 JournEVS End Rd Elizabethon IN. 37643 PJ 1 BOK 528 A Linda K Myers JAMES R FOOLESONG Jones Wolch pennigton Gap Va 2427) Willie Collier 7212 Jamie Court Keckeg VA Byron L. HEATH of MAD RESIDENT Mechanicantle, Vivgina 23127 7212 Jamie Court' Mechanicsville, VA 2311)

NAME PO. BOX 336 Raymond Hayes N. TAZewell, va 24630 Wytheville, Va. Rusia Davis Bhefield Va. Chris Ried M. Tazewell Va. Duda Roade Dawne Pudatt n. Tazewell, Va. Hugh Pudatt M. Tazewell, Va. Carolyn Jackson Tazewell Va. Danville, Va. Ellen Southand Interlock Fla Tomono, Owne Truny Queno Hollister Ha Birohlant VA Roby Owens Brahleaf Va. annique Owens Harpi, Va Sandy Puchett Haysi Vie. Vackie Owas clintwood, Ua Roger Owens n. Tuzewell, Ua. Fayne Brown Tazewell, Va, Debbie Brown Tazewell, Va. Teresa Brown

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Name My Hark Brows Street Address: 505 Tower 5t.

City, State, Zip Code TAZewell DA. 24630

E-mail Address: Brewster M 94@ Yahaa: Com

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